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09/747,926	12/27/2000	Takeshi Misawa	3562-0111P	3447

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EXAMINER	
HERNANDEZ, NELSON D	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2612	

DATE MAILED: 08/10/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/747,926	MISAWA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Nelson D. Hernandez	2612	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *19 July 2005*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1,3-9 and 12-41* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1,3-9 and 12-41* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *27 December 2000* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on July 19, 2005 has been entered.

Response to Amendment

2. Examiner acknowledges amendments made on the claims. Claims 1, 3-9, 12, 13 and 17 have been amended. Claims 2, 10 and 11 have been cancelled. Claims 18-41 have been newly added.

Claim Objections

3. **Claim 13** is objected to because of the following informalities: claim recites the same limitations as in claim 12. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. **Claims 1, 3, 5-9, 12, 13, 17, 21, 25, 29, 33, 37, and 41** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okada, US Patent 6,727,954 B1 in view of Anderson, US Patent 6,683,649 B1.

Regarding claim 1, Okada discloses an input unit (Figs. 2: 3 and 3: 3) disposed on an equipment (Figs. 2: 2 and 3: 2) having a plurality of operation modes (i.e. normal photographic mode, high resolution mode, reproduction mode and recording modes), for inputting a user's instruction to the equipment, comprising: a cross key (Fig. 2, buttons 19a to 19d; fig. 3, buttons 19a to 19d) having a crossing part and switch portions, said cross key being physically disposed on the equipment (see buttons 19a-19d physically disposed on the camera 2 as part of the input unit 3 in fig. 2) for presenting functions thereof; and a display arranged (Figs. 2: 12 and 3: 12) to be wedged in said crossing part of said cross key (Col. 6, lines 26-55; col. 8, lines 4-32; col. 17, lines 13-58; col. 18, lines 23-34; col. 24, line 59 – col. 25, line 4), but does not explicitly disclose that the display presents at least a function corresponding to the operation mode selected by the user and that said function displayed corresponds to the operation mode selected by the user from a plurality of operation modes, said function being different in accordance with the operation mode selected by the user, wherein said display displays in the vicinity of said switch portions information related to the function assigned to at least one of said respective switch portions.

However, Anderson teaches a camera (Fig. 2 A: 100) comprising a display (Fig. 2A: 140) and soft keys (Fig. 2A: 206) for presenting at least a function corresponding to the operation mode selected by the user from a plurality of operation modes, said

function being different in accordance with the operation mode selected by the user, wherein said display displays in the vicinity of said switch portions information related to the function assigned to at least one of said respective switch portions (See figs. 4A, 4B, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 24) (Col. 5, lines 17-38; col. 9, lines 35 – col. 10, line 44; col. 11, lines 10-51; col. 12, line 56 – col. 13, line 12; col. 14, lines 37-65; col. 15, lines 19-28).

Therefore, taking the combined teaching of Okada in view of Anderson as a whole, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Okada by have the display presenting at least a function corresponding to the operation mode selected by the user and that said function displayed corresponds to the operation mode selected by the user from a plurality of operation modes, said function being different in accordance with the operation mode selected by the user, wherein said display displays in the vicinity of said switch portions information related to the function assigned to at least one of said respective switch portions. The motivation to do so would have been to minimize the number of buttons required on the user interface and reducing the need to access hierarchical menus as suggested by Anderson (Col. 9, lines 47-62).

Regarding claim 3, the combined teaching of Okada in view of Anderson teaches that the display displays information related to an operation state of the equipment (See Okada, col. 6, lines 26-55; col. 8, lines 4-23; col. 17, lines 13-58; col. 18, lines 23-34; col. 24, line 59 – col. 25, line 4; Anderson, col. 5, lines 17-38; col. 9,

lines 35 – col. 10, line 44; col. 11, lines 10-51; col. 12, line 56 – col. 13, line 12; col. 14, lines 37-65; col. 15, lines 19-28).

Regarding claim 5, Okada discloses an input unit (Figs. 2: 3 and 3: 3) disposed on an equipment (Figs. 2: 2 and 3: 2) having a plurality of operation modes (i.e. normal photographic mode, high resolution mode, reproduction mode and recording modes) for inputting a user's instruction to an the equipment, comprising: a display (Figs. 2: 12 and 3: 12); and a plurality of switch portions (Fig. 2, buttons 19a to 19d; fig. 3, buttons 19a to 19d) arranged in surroundings of said display at positions sandwiching said display so as to oppose to each other, said switch portions being physically disposed on the input unit (see buttons 19a-19d physically disposed on the camera 2 as part of the input unit 3 in fig. 2) (Col. 6, lines 26-55; col. 8, lines 4-32; col. 17, lines 13-58; col. 18, lines 23-34; col. 24, line 59 – col. 25, line 4), but does not explicitly disclose that the display presents at least a function corresponding to the operation mode selected by the user, said function being different in accordance with the operation mode selected by the user and that the display displays in the vicinity of the switch portions information related to the functions respectively assigned to the switch portions.

However, Anderson teaches a camera (Fig. 2 A: 100) comprising a display (Fig. 2A: 140) and soft keys (Fig. 2A: 206) for presenting at least a function corresponding to the operation mode selected by the user from a plurality of operation modes, said function being different in accordance with the operation mode selected by the user, wherein said display displays in the vicinity of said switch portions information related to the function assigned to at least one of said respective switch portions (See figs. 4A,

4B, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 24) (Col. 5, lines 17-38; col. 9, lines 35 – col. 10, line 44; col. 11, lines 10-51; col. 12, line 56 – col. 13, line 12; col. 14, lines 37-65; col. 15, lines 19-28).

Therefore, taking the combined teaching of Okada in view of Anderson as a whole, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Okada by have the display presenting at least a function corresponding to the operation mode selected by the user and that said function displayed corresponds to the operation mode selected by the user from a plurality of operation modes, said function being different in accordance with the operation mode selected by the user, wherein said display displays in the vicinity of said switch portions information related to the function assigned to at least one of said respective switch portions. The motivation to do so would have been to minimize the number of buttons required on the user interface and reducing the need to access hierarchical menus as suggested by Anderson (Col. 9, lines 47-62).

Regarding claim 6, Okada discloses that the switch portions are respectively arranged at four positions including an upper, a lower, a right, and a left portion of said display (See figs. 2 and 3). Grounds for rejecting claim 5 apply here.

Regarding claim 7, Okada discloses an input unit (Figs. 2: 3 and 3: 3) disposed on an equipment (Figs. 2: 2 and 3: 2) having a plurality of operation modes (i.e. normal photographic mode, high resolution mode, reproduction mode and recording modes), for inputting a user's instruction to an the equipment, comprising: a display (Figs. 2: 12 and 3: 12); and a switch portion (Fig. 2, buttons 19a to 19d; fig. 3, buttons 19a to 19d)

arranged in surroundings of said display, said switch portion being physically disposed on the input unit, said switch portion being assigned to the function (i.e. direction of camera rotation when capturing images) associated with a relative position with respect to said display (see buttons 19a-19d physically disposed on the camera 2 as part of the input unit 3 in fig. 2), and (Col. 6, lines 26-55; col. 8, lines 4-23; col. 17, lines 13-58; col. 18, lines 23-34; col. 24, line 59 – col. 25, line 4) but does not explicitly disclose that the display presents at least a function corresponding to the operation mode selected by the user, said function being different in accordance with the operation mode selected by the user.

However, Anderson teaches a camera (Fig. 2 A: 100) comprising a display (Fig. 2A: 140) and soft keys (Fig. 2A: 206) for presenting at least a function corresponding to the operation mode selected by the user from a plurality of operation modes, said function being different in accordance with the operation mode selected by the user, wherein said display displays in the vicinity of said switch portions information related to the function assigned to at least one of said respective switch portions (See figs. 4A, 4B, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 24) (Col. 5, lines 17-38; col. 9, lines 35 – col. 10, line 44; col. 11, lines 10-51; col. 12, line 56 – col. 13, line 12; col. 14, lines 37-65; col. 15, lines 19-28).

Therefore, taking the combined teaching of Okada in view of Anderson as a whole, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Okada by have the display presenting at least a function corresponding to the operation mode selected by the user and that said function

displayed corresponds to the operation mode selected by the user from a plurality of operation modes, said function being different in accordance with the operation mode selected by the user, wherein said display displays in the vicinity of said switch portions information related to the function assigned to at least one of said respective switch portions. The motivation to do so would have been to minimize the number of buttons required on the user interface and reducing the need to access hierarchical menus as suggested by Anderson (Col. 9, lines 47-62).

Regarding claim 8, Okada discloses an input unit (Figs. 2: 3 and 3: 3) disposed on an equipment (Figs. 2: 2 and 3: 2) having a plurality of operation modes (i.e. normal photographic mode, high resolution mode, reproduction mode and recording modes), for inputting a user's instruction to an the equipment, comprising: a display (Figs. 2: 12 and 3: 12); and a plurality of switch portions (Fig. 2, buttons 19a to 19d; fig. 3, buttons 19a to 19d) arranged in surroundings of said display, said switch portion being physically disposed on the input unit, said switch portion being assigned to the functions (i.e. direction of camera rotation when capturing images) associated with a relative position with respect to said display (see buttons 19a-19d physically disposed on the camera 2 as part of the input unit 3 in fig. 2), and (Col. 6, lines 26-55; col. 8, lines 4-23; col. 17, lines 13-58; col. 18, lines 23-34; col. 24, line 59 – col. 25, line 4) but does not explicitly disclose that the display presents functions corresponding to the operation mode selected by the user, said function being different in accordance with the operation mode selected by the user.

However, Anderson teaches a camera (Fig. 2 A: 100) comprising a display (Fig. 2A: 140) and soft keys (Fig. 2A: 206) for presenting at least a function corresponding to the operation mode selected by the user from a plurality of operation modes, said function being different in accordance with the operation mode selected by the user, wherein said display displays in the vicinity of said switch portions information related to the function assigned to at least one of said respective switch portions (See figs. 4A, 4B, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 24) (Col. 5, lines 17-38; col. 9, lines 35 – col. 10, line 44; col. 11, lines 10-51; col. 12, line 56 – col. 13, line 12; col. 14, lines 37-65; col. 15, lines 19-28).

Therefore, taking the combined teaching of Okada in view of Anderson as a whole, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Okada by have the display presenting at least a function corresponding to the operation mode selected by the user and that said function displayed corresponds to the operation mode selected by the user from a plurality of operation modes, said function being different in accordance with the operation mode selected by the user, wherein said display displays in the vicinity of said switch portions information related to the function assigned to at least one of said respective switch portions. The motivation to do so would have been to minimize the number of buttons required on the user interface and reducing the need to access hierarchical menus as suggested by Anderson (Col. 9, lines 47-62).

Regarding claim 9, Okada discloses an information recording apparatus (Figs. 2: 2 and 3: 2) for recording external information, including an input unit (Figs. 2: 3 and 3:

3) disposed on the recording apparatus (see buttons 19a-19d physically disposed on the camera 2 as part of the input unit 3 in fig. 2) for transmitting a user's instruction to said information recording apparatus, said input unit comprising: a mode switch (Fig. 2: 13 and 2: 14) for setting an operation mode of said information recording apparatus; a cross key (Fig. 2, buttons 19a to 19d; fig. 3, buttons 19a to 19d) having switch portions, said cross key being physically disposed on the recording apparatus (see buttons 19a-19d physically disposed on the camera 2 as part of the input unit 3 in fig. 2) and a display (Figs. 2: 12 and 3: 12) arranged to be wedged in a crossing of said cross key (Col. 6, lines 26-55; col. 8, lines 4-23; col. 17, lines 13-58; col. 18, lines 23-34; col. 24, line 59 – col. 25, line 4), but does not explicitly disclose that the display presents at least a function corresponding to the operation mode selected by the user, said function being different in accordance with the operation mode selected by the user and that the display displays in the vicinity of the switch portions information related to the functions respectively assigned to the switch portions.

However, Anderson teaches a camera (Fig. 2 A: 100) comprising a display (Fig. 2A: 140) and soft keys (Fig. 2A: 206) for presenting at least a function corresponding to the operation mode selected by the user from a plurality of operation modes, said function being different in accordance with the operation mode selected by the user, wherein said display displays in the vicinity of said switch portions information related to the function assigned to at least one of said respective switch portions (See figs. 4A, 4B, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 24) (Col. 5, lines 17-38; col. 9, lines 35

– col. 10, line 44; col. 11, lines 10-51; col. 12, line 56 – col. 13, line 12; col. 14, lines 37-65; col. 15, lines 19-28).

Therefore, taking the combined teaching of Okada in view of Anderson as a whole, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Okada by have the display presenting at least a function corresponding to the operation mode selected by the user and that said function displayed corresponds to the operation mode selected by the user from a plurality of operation modes, said function being different in accordance with the operation mode selected by the user, wherein said display displays in the vicinity of said switch portions information related to the function assigned to at least one of said respective switch portions. The motivation to do so would have been to minimize the number of buttons required on the user interface and reducing the need to access hierarchical menus as suggested by Anderson (Col. 9, lines 47-62).

Regarding claims 12 and 13, Okada discloses that the display unit displaying said information, and said display unit are arranged on the same face of said information recording apparatus as each other (See figs. 2 and 3) (Col. 6, lines 26-55; col. 8, lines 4-23; col. 17, lines 13-58; col. 18, lines 23-34; col. 24, line 59 – col. 25, line 4).

Regarding claim 17, Okada discloses a digital camera (Figs. 2: 2 and 3: 2) for capturing an image, comprising: a mode switch (Fig. 2: 13 and 2: 14) for setting an operation mode of the digital camera; an image-capturing unit (Fig. 18: 239) operable to capture an image; a capture-controlling unit (Fig. 18: 213 and 207) operable to control

said image-capturing unit; a processing unit (Fig. 18: 208) operable to process said image; and an operating unit (Figs. 2: 3 and 3: 3 operable to transmit a user's instruction at least to said processing unit disposed on the digital camera (see buttons 19a-19d physically disposed on the camera 2 as part of the input unit 3 in fig. 2), said operating unit comprising: a cross key (Fig. 2, buttons 19a to 19d; fig. 3, buttons 19a to 19d) having switch portions, said cross key being physically disposed on the digital camera; and a display (Figs. 2: 12 and 3: 12) arranged to be wedged in a crossing of said cross key (Col. 6, lines 26-55; col. 8, lines 4-23; col. 15, line 19 – col. 16, line 59 col. 17, lines 13-58; col. 18, lines 23-34; col. 24, line 59 – col. 25, line 4), but does not explicitly disclose that the display presents at least a function corresponding to the operation mode selected by the user, said function being different in accordance with the operation mode selected by the user and that the display displays in the vicinity of the switch portions information related to the functions assigned to at least one of said respective switch portions.

However, Anderson teaches a camera (Fig. 2 A: 100) comprising a display (Fig. 2A: 140) and soft keys (Fig. 2A: 206) for presenting at least a function corresponding to the operation mode selected by the user from a plurality of operation modes, said function being different in accordance with the operation mode selected by the user, wherein said display displays in the vicinity of said switch portions information related to the function assigned to at least one of said respective switch portions (See figs. 4A, 4B, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 24) (Col. 5, lines 17-38; col. 9, lines 35

– col. 10, line 44; col. 11, lines 10-51; col. 12, line 56 – col. 13, line 12; col. 14, lines 37-65; col. 15, lines 19-28).

Therefore, taking the combined teaching of Okada in view of Anderson as a whole, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Okada by have the display presenting at least a function corresponding to the operation mode selected by the user and that said function displayed corresponds to the operation mode selected by the user from a plurality of operation modes, said function being different in accordance with the operation mode selected by the user, wherein said display displays in the vicinity of said switch portions information related to the function assigned to at least one of said respective switch portions. The motivation to do so would have been to minimize the number of buttons required on the user interface and reducing the need to access hierarchical menus as suggested by Anderson (Col. 9, lines 47-62).

Regarding claims 21, Okada discloses that the switch portions surround substantially the entire circumference of the display (In fig. 3, see buttons 19a-19d surrounding the circumference of the display unit 12). Grounds for rejecting claim 1 apply here.

Regarding claim 25, Okada discloses the same as in claim 21. Therefore, grounds for rejecting claim 21 apply here.

Regarding claim 29, Okada discloses the same as in claim 21. Therefore, grounds for rejecting claim 21 apply here.

Regarding claim 33, Okada discloses the same as in claim 21. Therefore, grounds for rejecting claim 21 apply here.

Regarding claim 37, Okada discloses the same as in claim 21. Therefore, grounds for rejecting claim 21 apply here.

Regarding claim 41, Okada discloses the same as in claim 21. Therefore, grounds for rejecting claim 21 apply here.

6. **Claims 4, 15 and 16** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okada, US Patent 6,727,954 B1 in view of Anderson, US Patent 6,683,649 B1 and further in view of Kojima, US 2002/0082080 A1.

Regarding claim 4, the combined teaching of Okada in view of Anderson does not teach that the background color of the dot matrix display is changed in accordance with an operation state of the equipment.

However, Kojima teaches an image processing method wherein the background color in a display unit (Fig. 1: 25) is changed according to an operation state of the equipment (Page 6, ¶ 0110).

Therefore, taking the combined teaching of Okada in view of Anderson and further in view of Kojima as a whole, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to change the color of the background according to an operation state of the equipment. The motivation to do so would have been to help the user to be aware of the operation state of the equipment when using the input unit.

Regarding claim 15, the combined teaching of Okada in view of Anderson does not teach that the dot matrix display is arranged to have a plurality of background

colors, and one of said plurality of background colors is selected in accordance with an operation mode of said information recording apparatus.

However, Kojima teaches an image processing method wherein the background color in a display unit (Fig. 1: 25) is changed according to an operation state of the equipment (Page 6, ¶ 0110).

Therefore, taking the combined teaching of Okada in view of Anderson and further in view of Kojima as a whole, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to change the color of the background according to an operation state of the equipment. The motivation to do so would have been to help the user to be aware of the operation state of the equipment when using the input unit.

Regarding claim 16, grounds for rejecting claim 15 apply here.

7. **Claim 14** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okada, US Patent 6,727,954 B1 in view of Anderson, US Patent 6,683,649 B1 in view of Miyake, JP 11218817 A.

Regarding claim 14, the combined teaching of Okada in view of Anderson does not teach that the input unit is arranged on a face of said information recording apparatus that faces a user when the user uses said information recording apparatus in such a manner that said input unit is positioned at an upper portion of a center of the face on a right side of the center

However, Miyake discloses a camera (See figs. 2 and 7), comprising an input unit (Figs. 2: 56 and 7: 56), said input unit comprising a cross key, wherein said input unit is arranged on a face of said information recording apparatus that faces a user

when the user uses said information recording apparatus in such a manner that said input unit is positioned at an upper portion of a center of the face on a right side of the center (See figs. 2 and 7; See Abstract).

Therefore, taking the combined teaching of Okada in view of Anderson and further in view of Miyake as a whole, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the information recording apparatus by having the input unit arranged on a face of said information recording apparatus that faces a user when the user uses said information recording apparatus in such a manner that said input unit is positioned at an upper portion of a center of the face on a right side of the center. The motivation to do so would have been to enable the user to operate the camera by using only one hand, since the input device can be used while reaching the shutter button as suggested by Miyake (See Abstract).

8. **Claims 18, 22, 26, 30, 34 and 38** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okada, US Patent 6,727,954 B1 in view of Anderson, US Patent 6,683,649 B1 and further in view of Berry, US Patent 6,559,773 B1.

Regarding claim 18, the combined teaching of Okada in view of Anderson does not teach that the display displays information related to the operation mode selected by the user at the center thereof.

However, Berry teaches a control panel/display, which act as a device portal for interacting with multiple devices, wherein said display (Fig. 1: 11) displays the menu or deice symbol selected in the center of the screen (See fig. 1, icons representing AM-

FM, CD, Navigation, E-Net and phone respectively) (Col. 1, lines 6-28 and line 63 – col. 2, line 59; col. 3, lines 6-61; col. 4, line 62 – col. 5, line 55).

Therefore, taking the combined teaching of Okada in view of Anderson and further in view of Berry as a whole, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the display displaying information related to the operation mode selected by the user at the center thereof. The motivation to do so would have been to have the user aware of the menu in operation while operating the mode selected.

Regarding claim 22, the combined teaching of Okada in view of Anderson and further in view of Berry teaches the same as in claim 18. Therefore, grounds for rejecting claim 18 apply here.

Regarding claim 26, the combined teaching of Okada in view of Anderson and further in view of Berry teaches the same as in claim 18. Therefore, grounds for rejecting claim 18 apply here.

Regarding claim 30, the combined teaching of Okada in view of Anderson and further in view of Berry teaches the same as in claim 18. Therefore, grounds for rejecting claim 18 apply here.

Regarding claim 34, the combined teaching of Okada in view of Anderson and further in view of Berry teaches the same as in claim 18. Therefore, grounds for rejecting claim 18 apply here.

Regarding claim 38, the combined teaching of Okada in view of Anderson and further in view of Berry teaches the same as in claim 18. Therefore, grounds for rejecting claim 18 apply here.

9. **Claims 19, 20 23, 24, 27, 28, 31, 32, 35, 36, 39 and 40** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okada, US Patent 6,727,954 B1 and Anderson, US Patent 6,683,649 B1 in view of Berry, US Patent 6,559,773 B1 and further in view of Köhler, US Patent 4,712,105.

Regarding claim 19, the combined teaching of Okada in view of Anderson and further in view of Berry does not teach that the information related to the function assigned to said respective switch portions is presented as a symbol.

However, Köhler teaches an input unit (Fig. 1), comprising a display unit (Fig. 1: 300 and fig. 3: 300); a plurality of soft key buttons (Fig. 1 and 3, buttons 301-312); wherein said display presents at least a function corresponding to the operation mode selected by the user and that said function displayed corresponds to the operation mode selected by the user from a plurality of operation modes, said function being different in accordance with the operation mode selected by the user, wherein said display displays in the vicinity of said switch portions information related to the function assigned to at least one of said respective switch portions; and wherein said display displays the information related to the function assigned to said respective buttons presented as a symbol (See figs. 3, 4, 5 and 7-12) (Col. 2, line 44 – col. 3, line 63; col. 4, lines 12-26).

Therefore, taking the combined teaching of Okada and Anderson in view of Berry and further in view of Köhler as a whole, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the information related to the function assigned to said respective switch portions presented as a symbol. The motivation to do so would have been to minimize the space of screen used to represent the function for each switch since a symbol can use les space than a name of said function.

Regarding claim 20, the combined teaching of Okada and Anderson in view of Berry and further in view of Köhler teaches that the information related to the operation mode selected by the user is presented as a symbol (See Berry, fig. 1, icons representing AM-FM, CD, Navigation, E-Net and phone respectively; col. 1, lines 6-28 and line 63 – col. 2, line 59; col. 3, lines 6-61; col. 4, line 62 – col. 5, line 55). Grounds for rejecting claims 18 and 19 apply here.

Regarding claim 23, the combined teaching of Okada and Anderson in view of Berry and further in view of Köhler teaches the same as in claim 19. Therefore, grounds for rejecting claim 19 apply here.

Regarding claim 24, the combined teaching of Okada and Anderson in view of Berry and further in view of Köhler teaches the same as in claim 20. Therefore, grounds for rejecting claim 20 apply here.

Regarding claim 27, the combined teaching of Okada and Anderson in view of Berry and further in view of Köhler teaches the same as in claim 19. Therefore, grounds for rejecting claim 19 apply here.

Regarding claim 28, the combined teaching of Okada and Anderson in view of Berry and further in view of Köhler teaches the same as in claim 20. Therefore, grounds for rejecting claim 20 apply here.

Regarding claim 31, the combined teaching of Okada and Anderson in view of Berry and further in view of Köhler teaches the same as in claim 19. Therefore, grounds for rejecting claim 19 apply here.

Regarding claim 32, the combined teaching of Okada and Anderson in view of Berry and further in view of Köhler teaches the same as in claim 20. Therefore, grounds for rejecting claim 20 apply here.

Regarding claim 35, the combined teaching of Okada and Anderson in view of Berry and further in view of Köhler teaches the same as in claim 19. Therefore, grounds for rejecting claim 19 apply here.

Regarding claim 36, the combined teaching of Okada and Anderson in view of Berry and further in view of Köhler teaches the same as in claim 20. Therefore, grounds for rejecting claim 20 apply here.

Regarding claim 39, the combined teaching of Okada and Anderson in view of Berry and further in view of Köhler teaches the same as in claim 19. Therefore, grounds for rejecting claim 19 apply here.

Regarding claim 40, the combined teaching of Okada and Anderson in view of Berry and further in view of Köhler teaches the same as in claim 20. Therefore, grounds for rejecting claim 20 apply here.

Contact

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nelson D. Hernandez whose telephone number is (571) 272-7311. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thai Tran can be reached on (571) 272-7382. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Art Unit 2612

NDHH
July 27, 2005